

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 038205
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:BDR
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NSC:WQUANDT
PM:RERICSON
P:PCHABIB
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
H:BATWOOD
S/S-O - JTHYDEN

-----009454 140437Z /62

O 140404Z PEB 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 038205

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EG, IS, SA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON AIRCRAFT SALES

1. THE SECRETARY WILL ANNOUNCE AT 1:15 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 14 THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO APPROVE SALES OF CERTAIN AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT, ISRAEL, AND SAUDI ARABIA, SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. YOU SHOULD FURNISH TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT (BEING SENT SEPTTEL) TO PRESIDENT SADAT (PRESUMABLY THROUGH MUBARAK) AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, NOTING THAT WE WISHED HIM TO HAVE IT BEFORE IT WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

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2. IN CONVEYING TEXT OF STATEMENT, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE STATEMENT REFLECTS THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, FOLLOWING HIS MOST RECENT DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH SADAT, THAT THE SALE OF F-5 AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT WAS JUSTIFIED IN LIGHT OF THE GOE'S MAJOR COMMITMENT TO THE PEACEMAKING EFFORT AND EGYPT'S LEGITIMATE NEED FOR SOME UPGRADING OF ITS DEFENSIVE AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY.

-- IN DECIDING ON THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT TO BE SOLD, THE

PRESIDENT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE DOLLAR CEILING ON ARMS TRANSFERS WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE VARIOUS AIRCRAFT SALES MENTIONED IN THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WILL HAVE A MAJOR CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO LEAVE ROOM FOR OTHER MAJOR PRIORITY SALES.

-- AS THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL NOTE, CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION WILL BE SIGNED OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS. IN THE CASE OF EGYPT, WE ANTICIPATE ONE LETTER OF OFFER AND AGREEMENT (LOA) FOR 30 F-5 AIRFRAMES IN FY 78 AND ANOTHER LOA FOR 20 IN FY 79. THIS WILL NOT AFFECT THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF DELIVERY OF THE F-5S. WE PLAN TO BEGIN WITH DELIVERY OF 20 AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT THIS YEAR.

-- WE EXPECT SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION IN THE CONGRESS TO THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO APPROVE THE SALE OF F-5S TO EGYPT BUT, AS SADAT KNOWS FROM HIS TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT, WE ARE DETERMINED TO GIVE THE FULLEST SUPPORT TO EGYPT AND TO MOUNT WHATEVER EFFORT MAY BE NECESSARY TO
SECRET

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ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSED SALE OF F-5S GOES THROUGH.

-- WITH RESPECT TO THE SALE TO ISRAEL, THIS IS IN PART IN FULFILLMENT OF A COMMITMENT MADE OVER TWO YEARS AGO TO PROVIDE F-16S TO ISRAEL. IT FALLS SHORT OF ISRAEL'S REQUEST, BUT WE FELT FURTHER DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THIS LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT COULD ONLY DIVERT ATTENTION FROM AND UNDERMINE THE MAJOR EFFORT AHEAD IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE GOE'S REFRAINING FROM ANY PUBLIC COMMENT PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HERE. VANCE

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DRAFTED BY PM:WMONROE

APPROVED BY S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

PM:RAERICSON, JR., ACTING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN 6253

S E C R E T STATE 038205

NODIS
FOR PM DIRECTOR GELB ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 038205 ACTION CAIRO INFO WHITE HOUSE
FEB 14.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 038205

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